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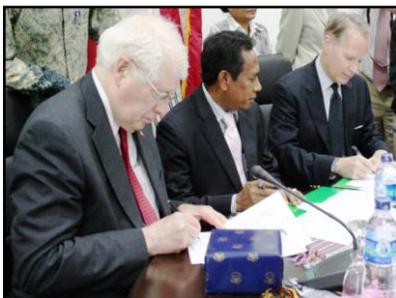


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The House Democracy Partnership (HDP) is a bipartisan, 20-member commission of the U.S. House of Representatives that works directly with partner legislatures around the world to support the development of effective, independent, and responsive democratic institutions.

Established by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2005, the Commission uses peer-to-peer exchange programs, training seminars for members and staff, and targeted material assistance to build capacity in key areas such as legislative oversight, budget analysis, committee operations, constituent relations, and library and research services. Its singular focus on the legislative branch of government and its unique ability to bring together U.S. legislators and their peers from around the world have made the Commission a valuable forum for strengthening democratic institutions and deepening bilateral relations.

The Commission was reauthorized for the 112th Congress on January 5, 2011, when the House approved H. Res. 5, the rules package for the 112th Congress. Section 4(a) of that resolution re-establishes the Commission, renames it the House Democracy Partnership, and references previous language stating that the Commission shall prepare an annual report and submit it to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and other appropriate House committees, the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

As required by H. Res. 5, this report reviews the activities of the Commission in 2011 and outlines its proposed activities for 2012. More information about HDP's activities is available on its website at <http://democracy.house.gov>.

Executive Summary

The House Democracy Partnership completed its seventh year of activity in 2011. The Commission added one program (in Iraq), renewed one previously concluded program (in Colombia), and maintained a high level of activity with its partners, sponsoring five congressional delegations, one former member delegation, retired congressional staff delegations to three countries, two inbound study visits for partner legislators, and one inbound defense oversight program for partner legislators. HDP staff also conducted an assessment of the feasibility of a program in Iraq, which led to the Commission's invitation to the Iraqi Council of Representatives (CoR) to establish a partnership.

The Commission's five congressional delegations enabled U.S. Members of Congress to engage directly with legislators in 10 partner countries: Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Georgia, Ukraine, Mongolia, Iraq, Lebanon, Peru, Colombia and Haiti. The format of each program was tailored to the needs and interests of the host legislatures, ranging from informal discussions of common challenges to formal training seminars. Concurrent staff programs were also conducted, with a focus on committee operations and constituent relations.

Beyond congressional delegations, the Commission sponsored numerous activities in Washington and abroad in 2011. In Washington, HDP sponsored two inbound programs focused on committee operations for 31 legislators from seven countries. The Commission hosted four additional delegations of legislators from Kenya and three additional delegations of legislators from Indonesia; these visits were notable because they were initiated by the Kenyan and Indonesian legislatures, which view their partnerships with the Commission as an essential part of their own reform efforts. In cooperation with the Near East South Asia (NESAS) Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University, the Commission also hosted a bicameral delegation of Afghan legislators for a week-long seminar on defense oversight.

In addition, HDP organized a visit by a former Member of Congress to Macedonia and Kosovo to conduct training on legislative affairs and committee operations. Two retired congressional staff were sent to Macedonia, Kosovo, and Timor-Leste for week-long programs focused on improving research services. These visits allowed members and staff from partner legislatures to engage extensively with U.S. experts on targeted areas of legislative strengthening.

Although no new material assistance was authorized in 2011, the results of the Commission's material investments continued to have a positive impact in partner legislatures. The Liberian legislative research library, which was heavily renovated with a \$200,000 commitment from HDP, opened in April 2011 with a re-trained staff and new facilities. In addition, work continued in 2011 to improve the technological capabilities and internet connectivity of the Timorese parliamentary research service, again with HDP support.

At the outset of the 112th Congress, Commission staff conducted a series of roundtable discussions with regional experts to identify potential new candidates for HDP partnership. Pursuant to these discussions, HDP staff conducted a week-long feasibility study of a program with the Iraqi CoR, leading to the Commission's decision to approve a partnership with Iraq. The program was formally inaugurated in Baghdad in October 2011.

HDP congressional delegations also visited two additional countries identified as candidates for partnership—Kyrgyzstan and Guatemala—for preliminary consultations.

Several aspects of the Commission’s work in 2011 were particularly notable, including:

- Its launch of a long-anticipated program in Iraq on the eve of the U.S. military withdrawal;
- Its visits to Egypt and Tunisia in the lead-up to the first democratic elections in both countries in the wake of the “Arab Spring;”
- Its efforts to consolidate democratic reforms in countries of the former Soviet bloc in the face of renewed authoritarian pressures;
- Its work with newly elected legislatures in several countries, including Haiti, Peru, Iraq, and Indonesia;
- Its continued efforts to support the Haitian parliament following the devastating January 2010 earthquake;
- Its work with the Indonesian parliament to reform the staffing structure; and
- Its consultations with members and staff of the Kenya National Assembly as they institutionalize constitutional reforms approved in 2010.

The Commission enters 2012 with programs in Afghanistan, Colombia, Georgia, Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Peru, and Timor-Leste. HDP continues to actively monitor developments in other countries and may add additional partners in the second session of the 112th Congress. The Commission expects to send congressional delegations in 2012 to the partner countries it did not visit in 2011 and to any new partner legislatures; to host at least two seminars for legislators and three for legislative staff in Washington; to organize at least one defense oversight seminar for legislators; to host a seminar for women legislators; to conduct a regional staff training seminar in the Middle East; and to continue its material assistance programs. The Commission will also continue to involve current and retired congressional staff and former Members of Congress in its programming.

Partnership Activities in 2011

Highlights

Iraq and the Arab Spring

After first considering Iraq as a possible candidate country for HDP partnership in 2006, the Commission revisited the question of an Iraq program following the successful Iraqi legislative elections in 2010. A staff assessment team was dispatched to Baghdad in June 2011 to evaluate the feasibility of a program, and in July the Commission's members approved a program with the Iraqi Council of Representatives. In October, HDP Chairman David Dreier led the first HDP congressional delegation to Iraq and formally inaugurated the program with visits to Baghdad and Erbil. In addition, two Iraqi Members of Parliament participated in the March seminar on committee operations in Washington. The newly launched HDP program provides a significant opportunity for the United States to remain closely engaged with the democratically elected government of Iraq at a time when the bilateral relationship undergoes a significant transition following the U.S. military withdrawal.

The Commission's visit to the Middle East also gave HDP members an opportunity to visit Tunisia and Egypt in the wake of the popular uprisings that led to the overthrow of longtime dictators in both countries in early 2011. These visits allowed the Commission to take stock of democratic developments and gauge interest in future peer-to-peer cooperation once new legislatures have been elected. HDP members also consulted with several Egyptian and Tunisian democracy activists during visits to Washington throughout the year. While significant challenges remain, steps toward legislative elections and the building of new democratic institutions in both countries hold significant potential for the lasting transformation of a region that was largely bereft of real democratic governments just one year ago. The Commission continues to monitor developments and look for opportunities to partner with these two fledgling democracies.

Consolidating Democracy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

In June, an HDP delegation traveled to Ukraine, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia, where they encountered a common theme: the threat of authoritarian neighbors seeking to undermine the democratic aspirations of all four countries. Legislators and other government officials expressed deep concerns that regional autocratic influences would thwart their efforts to reform and strengthen their democratic institutions, and they asked for HDP support in countering these anti-democratic forces. HDP members expressed solidarity and committed to continuing to work with them to consolidate their democratic institutions against renewed authoritarian pressures.

This support has taken different forms in each country. In Ukraine, while the formal HDP assistance program has transitioned to a more traditional legislative exchange, the Commission remains committed to engaging with reform-minded members of the Verkhovna Rada. HDP's partnership with the Parliament of Georgia is one of the Commission's most active programs, focusing on institutional development and ensuring a voice in parliament for opposition parties. The Commission has made two visits to Kyrgyzstan, has met with Kyrgyz legislators in Washington, and plans a staff assessment mission to Bishkek in 2012. The partnership with Mongolia remains very active and is a key part of the country's "Third Neighbor" policy, in

which it seeks to develop close ties with countries beyond its two encompassing neighbors, Russia and China. HDP will continue to seek opportunities to support democracy-building efforts throughout Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Haiti

The Haitian National Assembly was devastated by the January 12, 2010, earthquake that killed an estimated 230,000 people and destroyed much of the capital city of Port-au-Prince. The buildings housing the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate were reduced to rubble. At least two legislators died in the earthquake, and a total of 24 bodies, most of them parliamentary staff, were pulled from the wreckage. During the course of 2010, HDP members visited Haiti on three occasions to pledge support and encouragement and discuss the challenge of rebuilding the legislature with their Haitian counterparts.

An October 10, 2011, delegation of 10 Members of Congress, led by Chairman David Dreier, reaffirmed U.S. support for the National Assembly and was the first HDP delegation to meet with legislators elected since the earthquake. In addition to meeting the new leadership of both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, the congressional delegation also visited the new USAID-funded interim parliament complex, which HDP played a role in securing through its advocacy to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other senior U.S. officials.

Liberia

When the Commission initiated its program with Liberia in 2006, the legislature's one-room library lacked lighting, adequate furnishings, computers, and other basic necessities for the operation of a functional modern facility. The library had suffered losses and damage due to war-time looting and Liberia's humid climate, and the card catalogue had been lost. Books and archival material were stored on the floor.

In 2009, HDP authorized a material commitment of \$200,000 to create a functional library, archives, and research office. The design of the library, which was developed by the director of the Library of Congress (LOC) office in Nairobi and a LOC technology expert from the Cairo office, features adequate shelving, carrels, workspace, computers, and climate control. In April 2011, the new library and research center opened for the use of Liberian legislators and staff. U.S. Embassy staff in Monrovia reports that the project has greatly improved the capacity of Liberian members and staff to obtain professional, independent information on policy issues under consideration by the legislature.

Kenya

The Kenya National Assembly has been one of the Commission's most active partners, and Kenyan legislators and staff have repeatedly turned to HDP to help organize programs on specific areas of legislative oversight. In 2007, this enhanced cooperation led to the creation of a budget committee and a fiscal analysis office by the Kenyan parliament, with significant input and guidance from HDP.

In August 2010, Kenyans approved a sweeping package of constitutional amendments designed to address the governance challenges that led the country to the brink of civil war following the last presidential election. These amendments, which include one creating a second chamber of

parliament, will greatly enhance the constitutional powers of the National Assembly. Since their adoption, Kenyan legislators and staff have turned to the Commission to advise them as they implement the reforms. HDP hosted four delegations of Kenyan MPs for study visits in 2011, initiated and funded by the National Assembly itself. In cooperation with the legislature, the Kenyan Embassy in Washington, USAID, and the Department of State, the Commission organized meetings with Members of Congress, House officers, and congressional staff so that visiting legislators could seek advice on the changes they are endeavoring to implement.

Indonesia

The Indonesian House of Representatives, or DPR, has been working to reform its internal staffing structure and wrest administrative control of the body away from the executive branch, which until recently controlled the legislature's staff and budget. The DPR has worked closely with the Commission to examine best practices and develop a reform agenda that would bring more of the DPR's staff under control of the legislative branch, building on a major reform law enacted in 2009.

To this end, the Commission hosted three delegations of Indonesian legislators in Washington to discuss relevant legislation and overall congressional operations, also at the initiative and expense of the DPR. In cooperation with the Indonesian Embassy, the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, USAID, and the Department of State, the Commission organized meetings with Members of Congress, House officers, support staff, and congressional staff so that visiting legislators could seek the necessary advice to advance their reform efforts.

Congressional Delegations

The Commission sponsored five congressional delegations to nine partner legislatures in 2011. These delegations enabled Members of Congress to engage directly with legislators, sharing their experiences and offering advice in areas in which it was sought. The format of each program was tailored to the needs and interests of the host legislatures, ranging from informal discussions of common challenges to formal training seminars. Concurrent staff programs were also conducted, with a focus on committee operations and constituent relations.

Indonesia and Timor-Leste, February 19-27, 2011

A delegation traveled to Southeast Asia from February 19 to 27 to advance HDP's partnerships with the legislatures of Indonesia and Timor-Leste. The mission included a brief visit to Kuwait to receive an update on the geopolitical landscape in the Middle East during the "Arab Spring" from U.S. diplomats. The delegation was led by HDP Chairman David Dreier and included HDP Ranking Member David Price, HDP Members Lois Capps and Sam Farr, and Rep. Jim McDermott. This was the Commission's fifth visit to Indonesia, third visit to Timor-Leste, and 22nd mission overall.

After its brief stopover in Kuwait, the delegation continued to Jakarta (February 22-23), which was selected as an HDP partner in 2005. The visit allowed HDP members to work with their counterparts in the Indonesian DPR on key structures necessary for an independent legislature, including the DPR's ability to hire its own staff and control its own budget. The HDP delegation

emphasized the need for the DPR to strengthen and fully implement key internal reforms that were enacted in 2009.

The delegation met with the Deputy Speaker, Legislative Commission (BALEG) and House Affairs Committee (BURT) to discuss institutional reforms and consulted with the women's caucus and the committee responsible for education policy. Concurrently, congressional staff held three training sessions for Indonesian legislative staff on constituent outreach, member/district office operations, and developing a legislative agenda.

The delegation also met with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to discuss democratic reform, religious freedom, and bilateral relations. Before departing Jakarta, the delegation visited U.S. sailors aboard the U.S.S. *Reuben James*, which was making a port visit to Indonesia's capital city.

The delegation then visited Indonesia's second city, Surabaya (February 24). The visit was the first since the early 1990s by Members of Congress to the provincial capital city of East Java, where a U.S. Consulate General is located. The delegation met with representatives from the provincial legislature to discuss national-provincial relations, as well as with the Governor of East Java to discuss Indonesia's democratic and economic progress. A meeting with the religious leaders of Surabaya's Grand Mosque was also held to discuss U.S. relations with the Muslim world and Indonesia's international role as the world's largest Muslim-majority nation.

The delegation continued on to Timor-Leste (February 25-26), which was selected as an HDP partner country in 2005. The mission was focused on providing support to the National Parliament and marking the launch of a material assistance program. Chairman Dreier and Ranking Member Price signed a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Commission with the President of the National Parliament, initiating HDP's provision of a \$175,000 program to improve the parliament's information and communication technology capabilities. Following the signing of the memorandum, the delegation visited the parliamentary library and research center, which was funded through a previous HDP material assistance project. HDP Members then held three training sessions with key Timorese committees to discuss committee operations, codes of ethics, and ongoing reform efforts.

The HDP delegation also met with the President of Timor-Leste, Jose Ramos-Horta, to discuss the upcoming Timorese elections, the prospects for constitutional reform, the management of Timor-Leste's oil revenue, and the overall democratic development of the country. Following the meeting with the president, the delegation traveled outside of Dili, the capital, to the Manatuto district, where they met with community leaders to discuss national-local government relations and visited a USAID-funded health center and water purification project. Three Timorese legislators, including the Deputy Speaker, accompanied the delegation to Manatuto. Overall, the delegation advanced HDP's mission by contributing to the partnership's ongoing efforts to encourage institutional reform in the Indonesian legislature and strengthen the capacity of the Timorese parliament.

Georgia, Ukraine, and Mongolia, June 3-12, 2011

A delegation traveled to four countries in the former Soviet bloc from June 3 to 12 to advance HDP's partnerships with the legislatures of Georgia and Mongolia and conclude its five-year program in Ukraine. The mission included a visit to Kyrgyzstan to explore the possibility of a program in the newly democratic Central Asian nation. The delegation was led by HDP Chairman David Dreier and included HDP Ranking Member David Price, HDP Member Susan Davis, and Rep. Brad Miller. This was HDP's fifth visit to Georgia, third visit to Ukraine and Mongolia, and 23rd mission overall.

The delegation began its mission in Georgia (June 4-7), which was selected as an HDP partner in 2005. The visit allowed HDP Members and their counterparts in the Georgian National Parliament to discuss the impact of recently adopted constitutional reforms on the parliament and other areas of legislative development, including the role of the parliamentary opposition, budget oversight, and constituent outreach.

After a Saturday meeting with Georgian civil society leaders and a dinner with President Mikhail Saakashvili and Speaker David Bakradze, the delegation traveled on Sunday to the eastern town of Signaghi, about 70 miles southeast of Tbilisi, to meet with a local legislator, municipal officials, and constituents. The delegation learned about how residents communicate with their representative in parliament and how he assists them with constituent services. HDP members also shared their experiences of assisting their constituents.

The delegation began the workweek with a full day of meetings in the National Parliament in Tbilisi. The delegation met with the chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee to discuss constitutional changes approved last year, discussed the role of the minority with leaders of the opposition factions, and discussed regional and security issues with members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The delegation finished its program in Georgia by discussing budget oversight with the Committee on Budget and Finance and drew upon their experience in Signaghi in a discussion of constituent relations with "majoritarian" legislators – those who are elected from single-member districts rather than from national party lists. Concurrently, Rep. Davis met with female staff participating in a program for future women leaders, and congressional staff met with their counterparts who work on budget analysis, committees, and constituent relations.

The delegation's June 7 visit to Kiev marked the transition from a formal HDP assistance program to a more traditional legislative exchange. At a luncheon for members of parliament, including the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Chairman Dreier spoke of the importance of the relationship between the U.S. Congress and the Ukrainian parliament (Verkhovna Rada) and delivered a letter from the chairs of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus pledging to maintain strong ties between the two legislatures. The delegation also discussed the Ukrainian political scene with opposition leaders Arseniy Yatseniuk and Yulia Tymoshenko and discussed the country's new electoral law with Justice Minister Oleksandr Lavrynovych.

During the delegation's visit to Kyrgyzstan (July 8-9), Kyrgyz MPs expressed pride in their nation's development as a parliamentary democracy since a popular uprising in April 2010, though they expressed concern about their authoritarian neighbors seeking to undermine their

democratic system. They praised USAID assistance to the parliament and expressed strong interest in a potential partnership with HDP. The delegation met with a group of legislators led by Vice Speaker Asylbek Alymbekov before meeting with Prime Minister Almazbek Atambayev, who spoke of Kyrgyzstan as a democratic model for Central Asia. HDP members met with several members serving on committees that receive assistance from USAID and discussed the common challenges they face as legislators. The mission concluded by meeting with Speaker Akhmatbek Keldibekov.

The delegation's final stop was Mongolia (July 9-11), where HDP has had a program since 2006. The delegation began a full day of meetings in the Mongolian legislature (State Great Hural) by discussing the status of the Parliamentary Research Center, which was created in 2009 by the legislature after Mongolian members were introduced to the Congressional Research Service (CRS) during several HDP seminars in Washington. At meetings with Speaker Demberel and several committee chairmen, the delegation discussed the proposed electoral law for the 2012 polls, which is to include a mix of proportional and district representation. At a lunch with Majority Leader Lundeejantsen, the delegation discussed future HDP cooperation with the State Great Hural, particularly with the research service. The delegation and the Budget Committee discussed how HDP might assist the parliament in developing a budget office modeled on the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

The delegation concluded its Mongolia program with a Saturday visit to the Bayanzurkh District, comprising suburban and exurban neighborhoods of the sprawling Ulan Bator municipality. The delegation met with the district governor, council president, administrators and residents to discuss the interaction between districts and the parliament.

Before departing Mongolia, the delegation met with President Elbegdorj. The president told the delegation that he is committed to democracy despite the challenge of having two autocratic neighbors, and he held up Mongolia as an example to Kyrgyzstan in its democratic development. The following week, HDP had the opportunity to host President Elbegdorj during a scheduled visit to Washington.

Iraq and Lebanon, September 24 to October 3, 2011

A delegation traveled to North Africa and the Middle East from September 24 to October 3 to inaugurate HDP's partnership with the Iraqi Council of Representatives, advance its partnership with the Lebanese National Assembly, and examine the political changes underway in Tunisia, Egypt, and Jordan. The delegation was led by HDP Chairman David Dreier and included HDP Ranking Member David Price, HDP Members Keith Ellison and Gwen Moore, and Rep. Jim McDermott. This was HDP's fourth visit to Lebanon and its 24th mission overall.

The delegation began its mission in Tunisia (September 25-26), where it met with leaders from the interim government, civil society, and political parties to discuss Tunisia's democratic transition in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution in January 2011 and the departure of former President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali. The delegation met with acting Prime Minister Caid Essebsi and Dr. Yadh Ben Achour, the President of the Supreme High Commission on Defending the Goals of the Revolution, to discuss the constituent assembly that is to write a new Tunisian constitution. The delegation also met with leaders from four prominent Tunisian political parties

to discuss the upcoming constituent assembly elections and the political platforms on which they are basing their campaigns. Finally, the delegation met with other party representatives, women's rights activists, business leaders, and members of the diplomatic corps at two events hosted by the U.S. Embassy.

The delegation visited Cairo (September 27-28) to discuss the political changes that had taken place since the fall of President Hosni Mubarak with civil society, interim government officials, and military leaders. The delegation met with Prime Minister Essam Sharaf and Deputy Foreign Minister Wafaa Bassim to discuss the road ahead for Egypt's democracy and the other challenges facing the country, including the struggling economy. The delegation also met with Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, the chairman of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, which assumed control of the government until a permanent government could be elected. While the delegation commended the Egyptian military for its role in facilitating Egypt's transition, it also expressed concern about a range of issues including the use of military tribunals to try civilian protestors, the extension of the Mubarak-era emergency law, and the need for the parliamentary elections to be conducted in a transparent manner that would be accepted by the Egyptian people, followed by a timely transfer of power.

In addition to its meetings with the interim government, the delegation met with the former Secretary General of the Arab League, Amr Moussa, who is a candidate for the presidency of Egypt, to discuss his vision for the country's future. HDP members also met with various political party, women's rights, and civil society leaders and visited Tahrir Square, the focal point of the protests that led to Mubarak's departure earlier in the year.

The delegation then traveled to Amman (September 29), where it was granted an audience with King Abdullah II. The discussion with the monarch focused on the future of the Middle East in light of the Arab Spring, the political reforms proposed in Jordan, and the future of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The delegation also met with the Speaker of the Jordanian Chamber of Deputies, Faisal Al-Fayez, and other members of the Jordanian parliament to discuss the legislative reforms that are underway in the Hashemite Kingdom.

On September 30, the delegation traveled to Beirut for the Commission's fourth working visit since its partnership with Lebanon was initiated in 2006. The delegation began its visit with a call on Lebanese President Michel Suleiman to discuss the current state of politics in Lebanon, Lebanese-Israeli relations, and the crisis in neighboring Syria. The delegation also met with three legislators representing Speaker Nabih Berri to discuss the future of the partnership between the House of Representatives and the Lebanese National Assembly. Former participants in HDP training programs met with the delegation over lunch and shared their thoughts on the state of Lebanese democracy. The congressional delegation concluded its visit by meeting with Fouad Siniora, the former Prime Minister and current head of the Future Movement parliamentary bloc, who discussed his bloc's efforts to play the role of a responsible opposition.

The delegation concluded its mission in Iraq (October 1-2), where it inaugurated HDP's partnership with the Iraqi Council of Representatives (CoR). The Commission held its first official meeting with members and staff representing the Committee on Foreign Affairs, where

the technical needs of the Iraqi parliament were discussed. This was followed by meetings with the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee and the Chairman of the Higher Education Committee, who added their insights into what the CoR needed to become a more effective legislature. The delegation stressed the importance of oversight of the executive branch and the ability to use the budget process to advance the legislature's goals. The delegation also met with Gen. Lloyd Austin, Commanding General of U.S. Forces-Iraq, to discuss the transition and drawdown of U.S. military forces by the end of 2011.

On October 2, the delegation traveled to the northern city of Erbil, in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, to visit the constituency of two members of the CoR and discuss constituent services. The delegation learned that these members provide substantial services to their constituents but receive very little backing from the parliament. The delegation also met with the U.S. Consul General in Erbil to discuss the consulate's plans in anticipation of the military drawdown and the challenges facing Iraq's religious minorities in northern Iraq.

Haiti, October 10, 2011

A delegation traveled to Haiti on October 10 for HDP's first meeting with members of the new Haitian National Assembly, elected in November 2010 following the January 2010 earthquake, which left the country without a functioning parliament for several months. The 10-member delegation was led by HDP Chairman David Dreier and included HDP Members Lois Capps, Mazie Hirono, Gwen Moore, and Susan Davis, along with Reps. Donald Payne, Maxine Waters, Adam Schiff, Donna Christensen, and Yvette Clarke. This was HDP's fourth congressional delegation to Haiti since 2007 and its 25th mission overall.

Polling took place in November 2010 and March 2011 to elect all 99 members of the Chamber of Deputies and 11 of the 30 senators. The delegation met with nearly two dozen legislators to discuss key aspects of the National Assembly's work, including constituent relations, committee operations, and budget oversight.

After a briefing by U.S. Embassy officials, the delegation began its mission by meeting with Haitian President Michel Martelly, who was sworn in five months earlier. Delegation members discussed a wide range of issues with the president, including the progress made toward resettling Haitians displaced by last year's earthquake, the President's initiatives in the areas of education and housing, the future of the U.N. mission in Haiti, and the role that the Haitian diaspora can play in the country's development. President Martelly emphasized his desire to work constructively with the opposition-controlled parliament, highlighting the recent confirmation of his nominee for prime minister as an example of effective cooperation.

The central focus of the delegation's visit was its meetings with deputies and senators, including Sorel Jacinthe, president of the Chamber of Deputies. The session opened with a discussion on the importance of communication between legislators and their constituents. Delegation members shared ways in which they stay in contact with their constituents and the importance of maintaining offices in their districts. The delegation then divided for small-group meetings with the Haitian legislators; Chairman Dreier led a session on the role of committees in conducting oversight of the executive, while Rep. Capps led a session with members of the finance committees of the Chamber and Senate about the role of the legislature in budget oversight.

The delegation also visited the site of the interim parliament complex on the Port-au-Prince waterfront, which was funded by a \$1 million grant from USAID and opened in November 2011. HDP played a role in securing this funding by urging Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other senior U.S. officials to devote resources to an interim meeting space following a previous visit to Haiti. The delegation's visit to Port-au-Prince concluded with a meeting with newly confirmed Prime Minister Gary Conille.

Peru and Colombia, November 5-12, 2011

A delegation traveled to Latin America from November 5 to 12 to advance HDP's partnership with the Peruvian Congress, renew its long-standing relationship with the Colombian Congress, conduct preliminary consultations with the Guatemalan Congress, and meet with key officials in Panama and El Salvador. The five-Member delegation was led by HDP Chairman David Dreier and included HDP Members Sam Farr, Susan Davis, and Jeff Fortenberry, along with Rep. Dennis Cardoza. This was HDP's second visit to Peru, its third visit to Colombia, and its 26th mission overall.

The delegation began its mission with a brief visit to Panama (November 5), where members met with President Ricardo Martinelli, cabinet ministers, and legislators to discuss U.S.-Panama relations and the recently signed U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement.

The next day, the delegation traveled to Peru (November 6-7), where HDP has had a program since 2009. In a meeting with the President of the Congress, Daniel Abugattas, HDP members discussed the modernization of the Congress and the development of the Commission's program. While in Lima, the HDP delegation also met with the ethics committee to discuss privileges, responsibilities, and accountability; met with committee chairs to discuss oversight and rules of procedure; met with members of the women's caucus to discuss the role of women in legislative politics; and held a discussion with members of various political parties on constituent relations, outreach, and media. The delegation was scheduled to attend a town hall-style meeting in the San Martin region of Peru, but logistical difficulties prevented travel to the region.

The delegation's program in Colombia (November 9) began with a meeting with President Juan Manuel Santos and other senior officials to discuss U.S.-Colombia bilateral relations, the recently enacted U.S.-Colombia free trade agreement, and the future of democratic development in Colombia. The delegation also met with Senate President Juan Manuel Corzo and House President Simon Gaviria to discuss the ongoing bilateral relationship between the Colombian Congress and HDP, including areas of future cooperation. The delegation also met with a representative of former President Alvaro Uribe's U Party and held a roundtable lunch with the Women's and Afro-Colombian caucuses to discuss the continuing challenges facing their communities and the role of minority groups in legislative politics.

In El Salvador (November 10), the delegation met with President Mauricio Funes to discuss political developments in El Salvador and the bilateral relationship. The delegation also met with the leadership of the Legislative Assembly and received a briefing on the damage done by recent tropical rains from the Ministers of Environment and Interior.

In Guatemala (November 11), the delegation met with outgoing President Alvaro Colom and with president-elect Otto Perez to discuss U.S.-Guatemala relations and regional challenges including trade and drug-related violence. The delegation also had the opportunity to meet with the leadership of the Guatemalan Congress and attended a lunch with representatives of the country's major political parties. Concurrently, HDP staff met with senior officials from the Guatemalan Congress to learn more about the legislature's staff structure. Guatemala was selected as one of seven candidates for HDP partnership at the beginning of the 112th Congress, and this visit allowed HDP members to explore the basis for future cooperation.

Washington Seminars

The Commission held two week-long seminars on committee operations for a total of 31 legislators from seven countries. The first seminar (March 28 to April 1) included five legislators from Lebanon, six from Pakistan, six from Indonesia, and two observers from Iraq. The second seminar (October 24 to 28) included four legislators from Haiti, six from Peru, and two from Afghanistan. The programs were organized in cooperation with the International Republican Institute (IRI), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), and USAID.

Participants met with their counterparts in the U.S. House of Representatives to discuss the organization and operation of public committee hearings, the importance of committee oversight, legislative ethics, the support Members receive from agencies like CRS and CBO, and the role of a committee chairperson.

Each program began with an overview of the U.S. committee structure by CRS and presentations by senior committee staff members on how committees set their agendas in consultation with House leadership, how committee press operations are managed, how legislation is drafted, and how budget analysis is provided by CBO for the Congress. In addition, participants met with senior leadership of the Government Accountability Office, the Department of State, and USAID. They also observed committee hearings, including one in which USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah testified, and compared and contrasted their own committee systems.

These were the 13th and 14th Washington-based seminars for legislators organized by HDP since the Commission was established in 2005.

Defense Oversight Seminar

The Commission held its sixth defense oversight seminar (October 31 to November 4) for 10 members of Afghanistan's defense oversight committees. The program, which focused on strengthening legislative oversight of the security services and ministries, was organized in cooperation with the NESAC Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University.

The Afghan legislators met with several of their counterparts in the U.S. House of Representatives, including the Chairman and Ranking Member of HDP, the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and a number of members who serve on appropriations

subcommittees related to national security spending. The goal of these meetings was to demonstrate how the U.S. Congress conducts civilian oversight of the vast American military complex and how the lessons learned by U.S. legislators may be tailored to Afghanistan.

The program began with an overview of the U.S. committee structure by CRS. In addition to its meetings with House members, the Afghan delegation met with senior staff from the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and attended a House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing on U.S. policy toward Afghanistan and Pakistan. Following the hearing, the legislators had an opportunity to meet with the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, and the three female members of the Afghan delegation met with representatives from the U.S. Congressional Afghan Women's Task Force.

In addition to its program in Congress, the Afghan delegation met with scholars from the National Defense University, senior Pentagon officials, and senior diplomats at the State Department and USAID.

Self-Initiated Study Visits

Over the course of 2011, the Commission supported a number of delegations of legislators from partner countries visiting Washington at their own initiative. In many cases, legislatures used their own resources to fund these delegations, underscoring the value that HDP programs provide to the Commission's partner legislatures.

HDP hosted the Kenya National Assembly's Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs from January 18 to 26. The delegation, which was focused on Kenya's transition from a unicameral to a bicameral system, met with staff from the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, CRS, the Parliamentarian of the House, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The legislators met with a number of senior House and Senate Members, including committee and subcommittee chairs and ranking members, as well as HDP leadership.

On April 4, HDP welcomed a delegation of Indonesian legislators focused on learning about legislative procedure in the House of Representatives. The Commission arranged meetings with the House Rules Committee, House Legislative Counsel, the Law Library of the Library of Congress, and HDP members.

Another Indonesian delegation, this one from the Committee on Household Affairs (BURT), visited the House of Representatives from May 3 to 4 to learn about internal legislative management. HDP arranged meetings with the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch, as well as senior officials from the office of the Chief Administrative Officer, CRS, the House Rules Committee, and the Committee on House Administration. The delegation gained a greater understanding of how Congress allocates and controls its own budget as well as manages its internal schedule, deliberations, and logistics.

A delegation from the Kenya National Assembly traveled to Washington on June 27 and 28 to further examine the effects the switch to a bicameral legislature would have on the National

Assembly. In addition to meeting with CRS, the delegation met with the House Rules Committee, the Parliamentarian of the House, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, and the House Budget Committee. The focus was on the manner in which the National Assembly will have to change its internal rules of procedures to operate with a second legislative chamber.

The Kenya National Assembly's Committee on Equal Opportunity requested HDP support in setting up a program to examine issues falling under its mandate. On July 21, the delegation met with CRS, HDP leadership, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa.

A World Bank-funded delegation from Afghanistan focusing on budgetary oversight participated in an HDP-facilitated program from October 11 to 14. The delegation witnessed a hearing of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and met with senior officials at the Office of Management and Budget, the Government Accountability Office, and the Department of the Treasury. Afghan legislators also met with HDP leadership and HDP members serving on the Committee on the Budget, Committee on Appropriations, and Committee on Ways and Means during their visit. Staff from the Afghan National Assembly's budget analysis unit participated in a day-long intensive budget analysis seminar presented by CBO under the auspices of HDP.

On December 5 and 6, the Commission hosted a senior delegation from the Kenya National Assembly, including the Deputy Prime Minister, focused on constitutional implementation, bicameralism, and decentralization. Meetings with CRS, the House Parliamentarian, the House Rules Committee, and Majority and Minority Leadership were arranged. Also on December 6, the Legislative Commission (BALEG) from the Indonesian House of Representatives was in Washington to study pharmaceutical legislation. HDP facilitated meetings with Members of Congress and CRS experts on pharmaceutical law.

Former Member Delegation

From May 28 to June 4, former Member of Congress Earl Pomeroy traveled to Kosovo and Macedonia on behalf of the Commission. Rep. Pomeroy, who was an active member of HDP with significant personal expertise in the Balkan region during his time in Congress, conducted trainings with the Kosovar and Macedonian legislators on committee operations, public hearings, and constituent relations.

Retired Staff Delegations

Timor-Leste

The Commission sent a delegation of two retired staff from CRS to Timor-Leste from August 22 to 26 to provide follow-on training to research service staff in the Timorese National Parliament. The week-long program was the Commission's fourth retired staff training program in Dili. The formation of a research service in the National Parliament was inspired by participants in a 2007

HDP seminar in Washington, and the Commission has facilitated consulting and training by retired CRS staff and current staff of the Jakarta office of the Library of Congress.

The training consisted of a follow-on intermediate course on techniques of public policy analysis and skills needed to work effectively with the legislature. It included a seminar on critical thinking for legislative analysts and a number of practice simulations. The retired CRS staff also evaluated the extent to which the research service staff are utilized by Timorese legislators, offering recommendations on how to improve demand for the service.

Macedonia and Kosovo

Two retired CRS staff traveled under HDP auspices to Kosovo (September 12 to 16) and Macedonia (September 17 to 25) to help develop each legislature's research service. In Kosovo, the purpose of the visit was to provide research and policy analysis training to a diverse staff providing legislative research services to the Kosovo National Assembly. It was the first such training to be undertaken in Kosovo, and 25 trainees participated. The training combined sessions on essential aspects of legislative research work with sessions on specific craft skills and daily team exercises. Basic concepts of legislative research, as distinct from academic research, were discussed. The retired CRS staff presented steps of public policy analysis and discussed how to write and present analysis for legislators. Other specific sessions focused on analysis of legislation, comparative bill analysis, information sources, quality control and review, balancing work priorities, handling difficult policy issues in a report, critical thinking, and outreach to legislators and committees.

In Macedonia, the purpose of the visit was to assess the Macedonia Assembly's present research and information resources and capabilities, advise officials working to create a Parliamentary Institute (PI) in the Assembly, and meet with stakeholders inside and outside of the Assembly. The retired CRS team conducted consultations on the recruitment plan and draft staff orientation program, as well as job descriptions for the 25 PI positions that were yet to be filled. While in Skopje, the team also conducted meetings with the Assembly leadership and administration staff to assess the legislature's existing library services, archival capacities, and software tools. They visited the existing Assembly library and archives, met with the Assembly architect, and received a tour of the PI space under construction.

Material Assistance

In July 2010 the Commission authorized an expenditure of \$175,000 to improve information and communications technology in the National Parliament of Timor-Leste. During CODEL Dreier's visit to Timor-Leste in February 2011, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Commission and the National Parliament governing the HDP assistance and the National Parliament's commitment to pay for future operating expenses. The project will strengthen the technology planning and management capacity of parliament and establish sustainable information and communication technology infrastructure. Experts have identified the poor internet and computer connections in the library and the broader parliament as a major impediment to realizing the full potential of the library and the parliamentary research service. The project is expected to be completed in 2012.

In Liberia, the renovated library and archives of the Liberian legislature opened on April 24. The library was developed in part through a \$200,000 contribution by the Partnership. The project, which includes a modern legislative library to serve members and staff, office space for the research service, and archive space, was designed by Library of Congress staff based in Kenya and Egypt and implemented by NDI. The new facility includes a common work space, an archive to provide for storage of key legislative materials in an orderly fashion, climate control to mitigate the effects of a tropical climate on papers, and office space for the House and Senate research departments.

Proposed Commission Activities in 2012

In 2012, the Commission plans to visit the six partner countries that it did not visit in 2011: Afghanistan, Kenya, Kosovo, Liberia, Macedonia, and Pakistan. Follow-on visits to Iraq and Haiti are also foreseen for 2012. The Commission will send independent staff assistance delegations to work with the staff of partner legislatures on a case-by-case basis.

The Commission envisions that 2012 may see the addition of new partner countries to the program. Following a rigorous evaluation of potential candidate countries conducted in early 2011, the Commission has tentatively scheduled staff assessment missions to Kyrgyzstan and South Sudan for January and April 2012, respectively. Changes in political dynamics or other exigencies may curtail or alter these plans.

Hosting members and staff from partner legislatures for seminars in the United States will remain a central part of the Commission's work. HDP plans two seminars focused on committee operations, inviting legislators from new partner countries and from existing partner countries that have recently elected new legislatures. Plans call for three staff institutes to be conducted: one on legislative research in January; one on budget analysis in October; and one on committee operations in December. HDP will host its first seminar for women political leaders in June. The Commission may also organize a regional staff institute on committee operations in the Middle East during the last quarter of the year.

Cooperation on defense oversight seminars is expected to continue in 2012 with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and its regional centers for security studies. The Commission is exploring the possibility of organizing a seminar for Iraqi defense committee members.

The Commission will continue to explore ways to utilize the expertise of former members of Congress and retired congressional staff in its programs. Possible programs may include orientation seminars for newly elected legislators in Liberia, Georgia, Mongolia, and Timor-Leste.

The Commission will explore opportunities for appropriate and cost-effective material assistance programs where needed. It expects to complete a \$175,000 project to improve the technological and communications capacities of Timorese National Parliament's research service by improving software capabilities and internet connectivity.

APPENDIX: COMMISSION ACTIVITIES TO DATE

Congressional Delegations

<u>Delegation</u>	<u>Partner Nations Visited</u>	<u>Date</u>
CODEL Kolbe	Indonesia, Timor-Leste	Feb. 2006
CODEL Dreier	Lebanon*, Kenya*, Liberia	July 2006
CODEL Dreier	Macedonia*, Afghanistan*	Nov. 2006
CODEL Price	Haiti*	Feb. 2007
CODEL Price	Ukraine*, Georgia*	Apr. 2007
CODEL Price	Lebanon, Liberia*	May 2007
CODEL Payne	Mongolia*, Indonesia*	July 2007
CODEL Price	Colombia	Aug. 2007
CODEL Price	Indonesia*, Georgia	Feb. 2008
CODEL Price	Macedonia, Ukraine*	Mar. 2008
CODEL Schiff	Afghanistan	May 2008
CODEL Price	Liberia*, Kenya*	July 2008
CODEL Schwartz	Georgia*	Dec. 2008
CODEL Hirono	Haiti*	May 2009
CODEL Price	Mongolia*, Indonesia*, Timor-Leste*	July 2009
CODEL Price	Peru*, Colombia	Aug. 2009
CODEL Price	Lebanon, Afghanistan	Nov. 2009
CODEL Pomeroy	Macedonia, Kosovo	Feb. 2010
CODEL Price	Georgia, Pakistan	Mar. 2010
CODEL Price	Haiti	May 2010
CODEL Price	Liberia*, Kenya*	July 2010
CODEL Dreier	Indonesia*, Timor-Leste	Feb. 2011
CODEL Dreier	Georgia, Ukraine, Mongolia	June 2011
CODEL Dreier	Iraq, Lebanon	Sept. 2011
CODEL Dreier	Haiti	Oct. 2011
CODEL Dreier	Peru*, Colombia*	Nov. 2011

* -- included staff training component, in addition to Member programs

Beyond Congressional Delegations: Member and Staff Training Programs

Former Member of Congress Delegations

<u>Delegation</u>	<u>Partner Nations Visited</u>	<u>Date</u>
EXDEL Frost	Kenya	Nov. 2009
EXDEL Lancaster	Georgia	Jan. 2010
EXDEL Pomeroy	Macedonia, Kosovo	May 2011

Combined Member/Staff Training Programs – Washington + Member districts

<u>Date</u>	<u>Partner Nation Participants</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Apr. 2006	Timor-Leste, Georgia, Indonesia, Macedonia	Introduction to Congress
Sept. 2006	Afghanistan, Kenya	Introduction to Congress
Apr. 2007	Colombia, Lebanon	Introduction to Congress

Member Training Seminars – Washington, DC

<u>Date</u>	<u>Partner Nation Participants</u>	<u>Topic</u>
June 2007	Afghanistan	Defense oversight
July 2007	Mongolia, Liberia	Introduction to Congress
Apr. 2008	Indonesia, Mongolia	Defense oversight
June 2008	Afghanistan	Defense oversight
July 2008	Indonesia, Kenya, Macedonia, Ukraine	Committee operations
Sept. 2008	Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, Haiti, Liberia	Committee operations
March 2009	Pakistan	Defense oversight
Sept. 2009	Afghanistan	Budget oversight
Sept. 2009	Georgia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Mongolia	Committee operations
Oct. 2009	Haiti, Kenya, Liberia, Peru	Committee operations
May 2010	Pakistan	Defense oversight
March 2011	Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan	Committee operations
Oct. 2011	Afghanistan	Budget oversight
Oct. 2011	Afghanistan, Haiti, Peru	Committee operations
Oct. 2011	Afghanistan	Defense oversight

Legislative Staff Training Institutes – Washington, DC

<u>Date</u>	<u>Partner Nation Participants</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Dec. 2007	Afghanistan, Georgia, Indonesia, Liberia, Kenya, Macedonia, Haiti, Mongolia, Timor-Leste	Research, Parliamentary administration (2 tracks)
Oct. 2008	Afghanistan, Colombia, Timor-Leste, Georgia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Macedonia, Mongolia, Ukraine	Budget Analysis
Dec. 2008	Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, Georgia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Macedonia, Mongolia, Ukraine	Committee Operations
Nov. 2009	Afghanistan, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Kosovo, Liberia, Macedonia, Mongolia, Peru, Timor-Leste	Information technology
Dec. 2009	Georgia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Peru, Timor-Leste	Research and analysis
Oct. 2010	Georgia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Kosovo, Liberia, Macedonia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Peru, Timor-Leste	Budget analysis
Dec. 2010	Afghanistan, Georgia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Peru, Timor-Leste	Committee operations

Regional Staff Institutes

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Partner Nation Participants</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Nov. 2009	Kenya	Afghanistan, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Timor-Leste	Budget analysis
Nov. 2009	Macedonia	Georgia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Mongolia	Committee operations
June 2010	Poland	Afghanistan, Georgia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Kosovo, Liberia, Macedonia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Timor-Leste	Research and analysis

Congressional Staff Training Program for members and staff – in-country

<u>Date</u>	<u>Partner Nation</u>	<u>Description</u>
Jan. 2006	Georgia	IT needs assessment
Jan. 2006	Macedonia	IT needs assessment and training
Feb. 2006	Timor-Leste	LoC-Jakarta library training and development
Mar. 2006	Georgia	Research Department needs assessment
July 2006	Lebanon	Library of Congress (LoC)-Cairo library training program
Sept. 2006	Afghanistan	LoC-Islamabad library training program and assessment
Nov. 2006	Timor-Leste	LoC-Jakarta library training and development
Feb. 2007	Kenya	Legislative drafting and parliamentary procedure workshops
June 2007	Haiti	Ethics seminar
June 2007	Timor-Leste	LoC-Jakarta library training and development
Nov. 2007	Haiti	LoC assessment of proposed parliamentary resource center
Nov. 2007	Haiti	Budget analysis training
Nov. 2007	Kenya	Research and budget analysis training
Dec. 2007	Macedonia	Constituent service training
May 2008	Haiti	Personnel administration and website development training
May 2008	Timor-Leste	LoC-Jakarta library training and development
April 2009	Liberia	LoC-Nairobi and LoC-Cairo library development
Dec. 2009	Timor-Leste	LoC-Jakarta library training and development
April 2010	Peru	CRS and committee staff consultations and training

Retired Staff Training Program – in-country

<u>Date</u>	<u>Partner Nation</u>	<u>Description</u>
Oct. 2009	Haiti	Retired CRS staff, library/research center project
July 2010	Timor-Leste	Retired CRS staff, research training/consultation
Aug. 2010	Indonesia	Retired CRS staff, research training/consultation
Aug. 2011	Timor-Leste	Retired CRS staff, research training/consultation
Sept. 2011	Kosovo	Retired CRS staff, research training/consultation
Sept. 2011	Macedonia	Retired CRS staff, research training/consultation

Material Assistance

<u>Partner Nation</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Status</u>
Afghanistan	Library development and materials	\$150,000	Completed
Georgia	Computer servers and software	\$70,000	Completed
Lebanon	Library materials	\$1,000	Completed
Liberia	Library/research center	\$200,000	Completed
Macedonia	Computer servers	\$50,000	Completed
Timor-Leste	Library equipment, materials, training	\$175,000	Completed
	Internet access/networking	\$175,000	Approved